U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to

24 November 1963

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that all working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 have remained in my personal custody at all times. Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report were handed to Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, at 1700,. 24 November 1963. No papers relating to this. case remain in my possession.

J. J. Humes

J. J. HUMES
CDR, MC, USN

Received above working papers this date.

J. H. Stover, Jr.

J. H. STOVER, JR.
CAPT, MC, USN
Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Medical School
National Naval Medical Center

Accepted and approved this date.
George G. Burkley
Rear Adm MC USN
Physician to the President

This, an original copy, also bears the endorsement of Dr. Burkley absent from the copy published by the Commission. Here Humes makes explicit that he never burned any notes made during the autopsy. "Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report" were preserved and given to Capt. Stover on November 24. Stover must have received all autopsy notes because Humes specifies that "all working papers" of the autopsy were in his possession until the transfer to Stover, after which "no papers relating to this case remain in my possession." With this transmittal, the mysterious story of the missing autopsy notes begins. See pp. 145, 261.

NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA 14, MARYLAND

25 November 1963

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center
To: The White House Physician

Subj: Autopsy protocol in the case of John F. Kennedy, Late President of the United States

1. Transmitted herewith by hand is the sole remaining copy (number eight) of the completed protocol in the case of John F. Kennedy. Attached are the work papers used by the Prosector and his assistants.

2. This command holds no additional documents in connection with this case.

3. Please acknowledge receipt.

C. B. GALLOWAY

This letter and the receipt which follows are from CD 371, although neither appears in the Commission's published evidence. When Specter introduced the autopsy papers, CE 397, into evidence, he stated for the record that CE 397 "is the identical document" marked CD 371 "for our internal purposes." (2H373). However, the two documents are not the same because the printed exhibit omits these two pages. Suppression accomplished many purposes, among them making it impossible to trace the chain of possession of the vital autopsy notes.

Many pages of notes made by all three pathologists during the autopsy were preserved and must have been delivered to Dr. Burkley on November 25. Dr. Humes transmitted all papers in his possession to Admiral Galloway on November 24, and here Galloway claims to transmit all papers he has, retaining none. Burkley in turn gave everything he got from Galloway to the Secret Service on November 26, as the following receipt executed that day reveals. And there the trail ends. The Commission's records include but one sheet (two sides) of notes, none of which were made by Humes. See pp. 102-5, 247-8, 251-6. The one sheet published directly contradicts the autopsy findings on a quintessential point, the location of the back wound. One can only guess what the suppressed notes reveal. And one cannot avoid asking why the Commission, charged with evaluating all facts relating to the assassination, did not obtain or publish the missing autopsy notes, and suppressed the receipts documenting their chain of possession. See p. 50.